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Fall 9-1-1999

PSC 336.01: The Causes of War

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Political Science 336
Causes of War

Autumn, 1999
Office: LA 349
Office hours:
10-11 MWF or
by appt.

Text: Michael Brown, et al. Theories of War and Peace

This course is concerned with various aspects of armed conflict. It does not involve analysis of battles, campaigns or military history. For our purposes armed conflict may be defined as the organized, systematic and persistent use of force for defined objectives.

Requirements:

There will be two hourly exams - October 4 and November 8. The comprehensive final is scheduled for December 15 at 8-10.

The class will be divided into five groups each covering one of the topics (6-10) listed below. The groups will gather information on their respective topics from library and internet sources. The result will be individual reports (5-10 pages) and a brief class presentation. Reports should be submitted on 3 1/2" floppy disk and they will be posted in the Department website where they will be available for class use.

Topic Outline:

1. War and political organization
Read: pp. 137-56
2. War and social organization
Read: pp. 257-328
3. War and the international system
Read: pp. 329-440

EXAM # 1 - OCTOBER 4

4. Causes of war
Read: pp. 3-136
5. War and economics
Read: pp. 464-566
6. War and technology

EXAM # 2 - NOVEMBER 8

7. War and politics
8. Sociology of war
9. Psychology of war
10. The dynamics of command
11. Conclusion
Read: pp. 441-63

FINAL EXAM - DECEMBER 15 08:00-10:00

Note: September 20 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.